



Town of Farmington Fire Department
1 Monteith Drive Farmington, CT 06032

Phone: (860) 675-2322 Fax: (860) 675-2323
www.Farmington-CT.org

Appropriations Committee

Testimony Opposing HB 6824:

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE THIRTIETH 2017, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND
OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO REVENUE**

February 25, 2015

I am writing today to make you aware of the impact that Regional Fire School budget cuts proposed in HB 6824 will have on the fire fighters in Farmington and across the State of Connecticut. The Town of Farmington **strongly opposes** the defunding of the Regional Fire Training Schools, as proposed in the Governor's DESPP budget.

The Regional Fire Schools play a vital role in providing training the State's Fire Fighters. The Town of Farmington is protected by 175 volunteer fire fighters and 8 career fire fighters. The overwhelming majority of our fire fighters received their initial fire fighter training through Regional Fire Schools. The Town of Farmington relies on the regional fire schools for advanced and ongoing training of its fire fighters as well.

Farmington has been told by our Regional Fire School Director that, without State Funding, the cost of tuition and facility rentals will increase between 300 and 400%. Farmington's budget will not absorb this type of increase. As such, if the cuts to the Regional Fire Schools are approved, the Town of Farmington will be forced to make difficult choices about the training we can provide for our fire fighters during the upcoming budget year.

The proposed elimination of Regional Fire School Funding is a reduction in funding to cities and towns. I ask that you to join the Town of Farmington in the opposition of this budget cut and restore the critical operating fund budget for all Regional schools that was removed in Governor Malloy's proposed budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary-Ellen L. Harper".

Mary-Ellen L. Harper
Director of Fire & Rescue Services

The Town of Farmington Fire Department is dedicated to providing for the safety and welfare of the community through the preservation of life, property, and the environment, by maintaining a constant state of readiness through fire fighter training and public education.